UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1999/139
30 March 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 9, 14 (b) and 17

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MINORITIES

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 29 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission for Human Rights

At the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretariat circulated documents E/CN.4/1999/114, 116 and 117 under cover letter of the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

My delegation considers it unethical to distribute such defamatory documents which serve no other purpose than to express an obsessional drive to provoke and antagonize peaceful coexistence between peoples and States. These standard products of Azerbaijani propaganda, unmatched in their scope and violence, reflect massive attacks to discredit Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh during the Commission's present session. Their cynicism, frightening in its simplicity, is designed to mislead the international community, falsify and deform reality using senseless provocation.

Such documents contradict established practices of human rights observance. In pursuit of unilateral and nationalistic interests, they let biased data and renewed campaigns of lies and accusations brought against a State and nation overhaul international standards.

There is no doubt that the facts and figures mentioned therein not only do no reflect the true situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the region, but contradict the course of history and the real aspirations of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh deterring the adoption of international standards and principles to resolve the conflict between the latter and Azerbaijan.

Short of reliable evidence and information, it is relatively easy for Azerbaijan to construct sordid plots around Armenia to try and make them sound real, if not ridiculous. Such conspiracy schemes inspired by second-class TV soap operas cannot have any credibility, nor be given serious thought.

My delegation truly regrets that the Azerbaijani leadership, headed by President H. Aliev, continues to consider itself as the helpless victim of the "Armenian aggression" bringing disgrace to the image of its own country in the eyes of the international community.

To a number of similar documents circulated by Azerbaijan, my delegation has responded by submitting document E/CN.4/1998/166 to the Commission on Human Rights and documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/33, 34 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/47 to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in which it has expressed its indignation against the outrageous attacks of Azerbaijan jeopardizing the integrity and the fundamental rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Rather than drafting documents transforming reality into lies, kindling animosity, distrust and belligerent attitudes, my delegation is determined to put an end to self-righteous confrontations of this nature. It advocates a constructive dialogue with a view to strengthening and implementing the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission of Human Rights under agenda items 9, 14 (b) and 17.

(Signed) Karen NAZARIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

- - - - -